ADDRESS

OF THE

"ASSOCIATION FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HOME INDUSTRY,"

OF MONTREAL,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA.

In pursuance of the objects of our Association, we deem it essentially necessary to make you acquainted with our views, in the hope, that you will co-operate with ourselves, in endeavoring to procure for our common country, those valuable and enduring advantages, which will inevitably result from the profitable employment of the labour of our own people.

We ascribe the present depressed state of the general interests of the Province—Agricultural and Manufacturing, as well as Commercial—to the want of Legislative encouragement, in behalf of the labour of this country, and particularly to the absence of that proper and judicious discrimination, which would, if wisely exercised in the apportionment of the Duties required for Revenue, not only have the effect of promoting the prosperity and extension of those Branches of Industry which are already established, and also stimulate the creation of others, throughout the Province, but would, at the same time, by enlarging the field of employment for the labouring classes, materially contribute towards the general amelioration and advancement of their social condition.

We deprecate the idea which has been industriously circulated, by those who advocate the doctrines of Free Trade, to the effect that, when the interests of Canada have been protected, such protection has invariably been attended with a sinister effect.

We deny the allegation that Canada has, at any time, been protected, exclusively with a view to her separate and individual interest; and, we affirm, that any protection heretofore extended to the products of Canada, in the markets of the Mother Country, has been more than counterbalanced by the advantage which Great Britain has enjoyed in return.

To guard against the misapprehension of our views, and to separate from each other the two questions of protection, Imperial and Colonial, we distinctly avow that, while we admit the advantages accruing to this Province from the protection at present extended to some of the products of Canada, in the markets of the Mother Country, it is, nevertheless not our intention to interfere with the internal Commercial Policy of Great Britain, by supplicating for Imperial protection, in behalf of the productions of this Province; claiming, as we do, that the inhabitants of this Country possess the local right to protect their own industry, by every fair and reasonable means.

In view of the connection existing between Great Britain and this Colony, we feel that it would be injudicious to recommend the augmentation of the aggregate amount of that portion of the Revenue derived from Custom Duties upon Imports, beyond the sum which is indispensably required for the general purposes of Government; while, therefore, we condemn the mode of raising the

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Revenue by direct taxation, it is not our intention to advocate the increase of that portion of the Revenue of the Country, accruing upon the Imports thereof, by the imposition of high or oppressive duties; but, we shall, nevertheless insist, that the duties upon Imports shall be made specific, as far as practicable, and that they shall be so apportioned, as to afford to the Industry of this Province the greatest amount of incidental protection; feeling assured, from the past experience of other countries, that if the duties required to be levied upon Imports, for Revenue purposes, were imposed principally upon such imported articles as compete with those of domestic production, and raw materials for manufacturing purposes, not advantageously produced in the Province, were admitted free, it would conduce to the investment of capital in Manufacturing Establishments, afford employment to our own people, and secure a Home Market for the more common products of the Agriculturist.

Believing that no country can attain to prosperity, wherein the welfare of the agricultural and labouring classes, is not made the prominent subject of wise and philanthropic Legislation, and feeling sensibly impressed with the anomaly which at present exists in this Province, of levying *high* duties upon articles of common necessity, upon the production of which no portion of the labour of the country is employed, and imposing *low* duties upon manufactured articles, which to a great extent are, and may still more become, the proper subjects for affording employment to the domesticated industry of Canada, we shall, make it our imperative duty to agitate for the repeal of such Customs Duties as are at present levied upon articles of common necessity, which cannot be profitably produced in the Province, particularly of those which are imposed upon the articles of Sugar, Tea, Coffee and Molasses; and should it be found that the requirements of the Revenue, for the general purposes of Government, will not permit of their being abandoned altogether, we shall demand that the duties imposed thereupon, shall not be greater than those which are collected upon Manufactures.

In conclusion, we urgently recommend the formation of Associations similar to our own, throughout the Province, as the only means of facilitating that communion of opinion, which is indispensably necessary, on the part of those who may join themselves together, for the carrying out of the vitally important principle involved.

WILLIAM WORKMAN, *President.*
DAVID VASS, *Secretary.*

MONTREAL, 30*th March*, 1849.

All communications, in relation to the subject matter of the preceding Address, are to be made to the undersigned.

BY ORDER,

DAVID VASS,
Secretary.